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Agenda item 116
**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

## Letter dated 15 September 2008 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

France was not given the opportunity to take the floor during the meeting and therefore requests, on behalf of the European Union, that the attached text be distributed as a document and included in the verbatim record of the 122nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly under agenda item 116, Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (draft resolution A/62/L.51) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Philippe **Delacroix**

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## Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2008 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

## Consultations on the overall coherence of the United Nations development system

The European Union would like to add to the verbatim record of the 122nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly the following comments on draft resolution A/62/L.51, which was adopted at that meeting under agenda item 116.

The European Union joins the consensus which made it possible to adopt the text today. However, it would like to make the following comments:

1. This draft represents the minimum wording acceptable in view of the wealth of issues that have been discussed and in view of the progress already made in strengthening system-wide coherence. The European Union wishes to clarify the following points:

- The European Union interprets paragraph 3 as not encroaching on the competencies of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations in relation to the harmonization of business practices. It is therefore appropriate to emphasize that the Secretary-General should inform the General Assembly of the action taken.

- The European Union would have preferred stronger language concerning the implementation of "Delivering as one". Many very positive elements have been emphasized by the countries which are engaged in the reform and which seek to optimize its benefits.

- The European Union would have preferred paragraph 5 to be strengthened in order to reflect the constructive nature of the discussions that took place during the informal consultations.

2. The European Union takes note that this resolution gives the General Assembly a time frame for deciding, during its sixty-third session, on the institutional arrangements needed to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as on issues of funding and governance. In this context, the European Union is willing to accept that these decisions and their implementation should be reviewed, together with any other decisions taken or deliberations held in the meantime, by adopting a single resolution or decision that would conclude the process on system-wide coherence by reviewing and taking note of the actions taken, including those taken during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.